

Asked whether foreign affairs is more pressing today than during his White House tenure, he says, "I don't think it is any more important than when we were faced daily with the nuclear challenge from another superpower—the Soviet Union. Those were tense days."

"Yes, we have problems today in Europe, the Mideast and elsewhere. But they are no more serious than the Cold War days—with all the challenges that then existed."

Mr. Ford points out that President Nixon's skillful maneuvering in the Mideast will go down in the annals of great diplomacy. "In foreign policy," he says, "Richard Nixon is unequaled by any other American president in this century."

How was the presidency evolved since Gerald Ford left the White House 24½ years ago? "The office changes with each president," he says. "Each occupant defines the role and his responsibilities. In my case, I tried to make a difference in my leadership."

He went on to say that he learned about leadership and making decisions while serving as an officer in the US Navy during World War II. "I think," he adds, "I was a better vice president and president because of that military service."

He notes that there is "a majesty" to the presidency that inhibits even close friends and heads of state from telling the chief executive what is actually on their minds—especially in the Oval Office.

"You can ask for blunt truth, but the guarded response never varies," he says. "To keep perspective, any president needs to hear straight talk. And he should, at times, come down from the pedestal the office provides."

"I'm still convinced that truth is the glue that holds government together—not only our government, but civilization itself."

From his experiences, he cautions future presidents about general abuse of power and the dangers of over-reliance on staff.

At the outset of President Bill Clinton's first term, there was criticism of his staff and operation of his White House. Mr. Ford then expressed sympathy for a president undergoing periods of anxiety and disarray, even turmoil.

He noted that he, too, had problems with staff mismanagement. Today, he is still concerned about the image of the presidency, and still concerned that a solution has not been found about overzealous White House employees who are not instructed, from the outset, that they work for the president and for the people—and not the other way around.

He maintains that staff assistants are not elected by the people, and that the president himself needs to determine how much trust to invest in his aides. "Otherwise," he emphasizes, "the ramifications and the consequences of their arrogance and abuse of power—particularly by secondary and lower staff—can be dangerous."

Mr. Ford concurs with one of President Lyndon B. Johnson's press secretaries, George E. Reedy, who wrote in his book, "The Twilight of the Presidency": "Presidents should not hire any assistants under 40 years old who had not suffered any major disappointments in life. When young amateurs find themselves in the West Wing or East Wing of the White House, they begin to think they are little tin gods . . ."

In his autobiography, "A Time to Heal," Mr. Ford wrote: "Reedy had left the White House staff several years before, but he was predicting the climate that had led to 'Watergate.' And that is disturbing."

Born in 1913 in Omaha, Nebraska, to Dorothy Gardner and Leslie Lynch King Jr., Gerald Ford was christened Leslie L. King Jr. His parents divorced when he was two years old. He moved with his mother to Grand Rapids, Mich., where she married Gerald Rudolph Ford, who later adopted the child and gave him his name, Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr.

If he were able to relive his 88 years, what would he do differently?

"I would make no significant changes," he says. "I've been lucky, both in my personal life and professionally. Along the way I tried to improve myself by learning something new in each of the jobs I held. I've witnessed more than my share of miracles . . . I've witnessed the defeat of Nazi tyranny and the destruction of hateful walls that once divided free men from those enslaved."

" . . . It has been a grand adventure and I have been blessed every step by a loving wife and supportive family."

He says he will never forget one of the family's worst days in the White House . . . six weeks after they moved in, "Betty received a diagnosis of breast cancer," he recalls. "But her courage in going public with her condition . . . and her candor about her mastectomy increased awareness of the need of examination for early detection, saving countless women's lives."

Six years later (1980), former President and Mrs. Ford dedicated The Betty Ford Diagnostic and Comprehensive Breast Center, in Washington, D.C. (part of Columbia Hospital for Women). The Center's former director, Dr. Katherine Alley, a renowned breast cancer surgeon, says today: "As one of the first women of note to go public with her cancer diagnosis and treatment, Betty Ford helped women to face the disease more openly and with less fear."

Turning to his philosophy of life, Mr. Ford says: "I've always been an optimist and still am. Yes, I suffered a few disappointments and defeats, but I tried to forget about those, and keep a positive attitude. When I was in sports and lost a game by error, or in the political arena, when I lost by a narrow margin, no amount of groaning would do any good. So I don't dwell on the past. I learned to move on and look ahead."

Much as he had yearned to be elected president in his own right in 1976, Gerald Ford is confident that history will record that he "healed America at a very difficult time."

He believes that his presidential leadership for 29 months had steered the U.S. out of that period of turmoil, making it possible to move from despair to a renewed national unity of purpose and progress.

"I also re-established a working relationship between the White House and Congress, one that had been ruptured," he concludes. "All that made an important difference. I consider that to be my greatest accomplishment as president, and I hope historians will record that as my legacy."

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred November 3, 1991 in Houston, TX. Phillip W. Smith was shot to death outside a gay bar in Montrose. Johnny Bryant Darrington III, 20, was charged with murder and aggravated robbery. He told police he hated homosexuals.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe

that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, July 13, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,705,050,480,267.56, five trillion, seven hundred five billion, fifty million, four hundred eighty thousand, two hundred sixty-seven dollars and fifty-six cents.

One year ago, July 13, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,666,740,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-six billion, seven hundred forty million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 13, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$617,642,000,000, six hundred seventeen billion, six hundred forty-two million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,087,408,480,267.56, five trillion, eighty-seven billion, four hundred eight million, four hundred eighty thousand, two hundred sixty-seven dollars and fifty-six cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. TURNER

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, James A. Turner of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Jim Turner was a man of great courage, intelligence and character. We were friends for more than 40 years. I believe America has lost a great patriot with the recent death of James A. Turner.

Born in 1925, Jim grew up on a farm just outside of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. As World War II began, Jim left high school to serve his country. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served with honor. Indeed, he earned and received the Purple Heart in 1945 on Iwo Jima when a machine gun blinded him during battle.

Jim returned to Alabama and in spite of his blindness earned his undergraduate degree in 1949. He received his juris doctorate from the University of Alabama in 1952. Jim always credited his wife and classmate, Louise, for his success in school. Louise read Jim's textbooks to him so he could keep up with his studies.

Following graduation, Louise joined Jim at their law firm, Turner and Turner. Today, their son, Don, and their grandson, Brian, also work at Turner and Turner. The family law firm has spanned five decades and continues to thrive in Tuscaloosa.

Together, Jim and Louise raised three wonderful sons, Don, Rick and Glenn, who have brought them great joy in life. Their grandchildren, Brian, Lindsay and Brittany; and great-granddaughter Farris, are sources of considerable pride.

Jim was active in his community. He was an active member of the Tuscaloosa Bar Association and also served